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Dated: May 4, 2004

Signature:

(Richard B. Hoffmann)

Docket No.: 30051/39651
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Gerhard Müller

Application No.: 10/713,320

Confirmation No.: 1240

Filed: November 14, 2003

Art Unit: 1761

For: APPARATUS COMPRISING A VACUUM
FILLER AND CLIP MODULE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Per the waiving of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of each of the U.S. patent references on the PTO/SB/08 are not attached. However, copies of the foreign references, along with a summary/abstract translation of each, are enclosed.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an

admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 30051/39651. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: May 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Richard B. Hoffman

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/713,320
				Filing Date	November 14, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Gerhard Müller
				Art Unit	1761
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	30051/39651

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	Re-30,390	09-02-1980	Kupcikevicius et al.	
	A2	2,070,850	02-16-1937	Trabold	
	A3	3,191,222	06-29-1965	Townsend	
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	A43	6,659,885	12-09-2003	Stimpfl	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/713,320
				Filing Date	November 14, 2003
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Sheet	2	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	30051/39651

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
	B1	EP-296300	12-28-1988	Walchli		
	B2	EP-0232812	08-19-1987	Weerth		
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	B13	WO-98/17119	04-30-1998	Hergott et al.		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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